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General and complete disarmament: improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee

Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

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* This information was received after submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from States

Turkey

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1. Turkey, as the co-sponsor of resolution 58/41, fully shares the objective of improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee in line with the threats which have become more apparent for the international community (i.e. international terrorism).

2. The challenges that lie ahead of the international community require a comprehensive, all-inclusive and realistic approach.

3. All the Member States have a stake in this process. In order to reach the goals shared by the First Committee as a whole, disagreements regarding the modalities should be overcome. In this respect, it would be useful to work on the administrative objectives with pragmatic results.

4. Establishing trust, enhancing common understanding and taking stock of the experience gained from this exercise should be the guiding elements at this stage. Turkey is of the view that with this kind of approach, progress on substantial issues can be achieved in an efficient manner.

5. In this framework the issues to be taken up in the first tier could be enumerated as follows:

- Strict adherence to time in the Committee proceedings with respect to both presiding over and attending meetings
- A speaker's address at the debate should be limited to an agreed time; the more comprehensive version of the statement should be distributed for the Member States and submitted for the written record
- The time to be saved from this practice may lead to a shorter period allocated for the general debate, in particular, and the duration of the First Committee, in general
- The time to be gained from the shorter general debate could be utilized for the development of consensus on draft resolutions and decisions
- Draft resolutions should be streamlined and made to be concise texts with respect to both preambular and operative paragraphs
- As suggested by a number of European Union member delegations, the automaticity of placing an item on the agenda of the General Assembly for the following year by adding traditional operative paragraphs in draft resolutions and decisions should be avoided
- The voting procedure followed by the First Committee under Chairman Sareva during the fifty-eighth session should be maintained.

6. As to the more substantial issues, based on the overall performance in the first tier, the following aspects should be considered in a consensual manner:

- Streamlining the agenda of the First Committee and bringing it into line with today's challenges, while upholding the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations
- Reducing the number of reports initiated by the First Committee and consolidating reports originating in the First Committee with other reports on related issues that the Secretariat is required to produce
- Early election of the Bureau of the Committee
- The practice of biennializing the non-controversial resolutions should be broadened and triennializing must be considered.